

Message Text

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41

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 FSI-01 PM-07 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 DPW-01 PRS-01

OMB-01 SS-15 /113 W

----- 027219

P R 070925Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5634

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC

UMJFS/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 1764

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USDEL JEC PARIS

CIA

DIA

JCS

JUSMAAG

WHITE HOUSE

USAJFKCMA

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDAO SAIGON

CINCPAC

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CINCPACAF

/CO 7TH PSYOPS GP

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

DEPCHIEF JUSMAAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 14232

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ECON VS

SUBJECT: EMBASSY SAIGON'S MISSION WEEKLY, AUGUST 1-7, 1973

BANGKOK ALSO PASS OSA; DEPT ALSO FOR AID/W; CINCPAC FOR POLAD;
DOD PRO USAJFKCMA ATTN: ATCS-WL-DSA

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINES SOMEWHAT
THIEU GIVES UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH ON SELF-DEFENSE DAY
JCRC OFF-SHORE OPERATIONS CONTINUE
NO PROGRESS IN 19TH GVN/PRG BILATERAL SESSION
SINGAPORE AND GVN ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
GVN SPOKESMAN ON POSSIBILITY OF GVN INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA
EVERYBODY RECOGNIZES NEW AFGHAN REGIME--GVN, PRG, DRV
COMMUNIST LEADERS ABROAD
EAST GERMANS WRITE OFF LOANS TO DRV
DRV OPENS RELATIONS WITH IRAN, ICELAND
BANGLADESH RECOGNIZES PRG
SOVIET AID PACT WITH VC
VC ATTACK CANADIAN RECOGNITION OF GVN
PRICE HIKES IN SUGAR, POL, AND US RICE SPUR RETAIL PRICE INCREASE
GOVERNMENT-WIDE WAGE BOOST ANNOUNCED

I. INTERNAL

A. THE CEASEFIRE

MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED SOMEWHAT THIS WEEK.
MR-1 SAW MORE COMBAT THAN USUAL NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. CLASHES
IN MR-2 CONTINUED, ESPECIALLY IN BINH DINH AND IN THE AREA WEST OF
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KONTUM CITY WHERE MAJOR NVA AND ARVN UNITS REMAIN LOCKED IN AN
INCONCLUSIVE CONTEST. TACTICAL AIR ACTIVITY IN MR-2 REACHED THE
HIGHEST LEVEL IN FOUR MONTHS, HOWEVER, AS THE MR-2 COMMANDER SOUGHT
TO SOFTEN ENEMY POSITIONS IN KONTUM, POSSIBLY IN PREPARATION FOR
RENEWED ARVN ASSUALTS THERE. FIGHTING DROPPED SOMEWHAT IN MR-3,
ESPECIALLY ALONG THE PROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A WHICH ARVN HAS BEEN
SEEKING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO OPEN INTO ISOLATED PHUOC LONG PROVINCE.
IN THIS AREA, FOUR WEEKS OF BLOODY FIGHTING HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE
CHANGE. THERE WERE FIFTY PERCENT MORE INCIDENTS REGISTERED IN
THE DELTA THIS WEEK THAN LAST, BUT RVNAF CASUALTIES REPORTEDLY
WERE DOWN TWENTY PERCENT. MOST OF THE REDUCTION IN MR-4 COMBAT
IS THE RESULT OF A CESSATION OF RVNAF OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN
CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE.

THERE HAS BEEN LIMITED PROGRESS ON THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC) REGARDING LONG-DELAYED DEPLOYMENT TO FIELD SITES. SOME AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE MUCH-ARGUED QUESTION OF SITES IN THE FIELD WHERE PRG PERSONNEL MAY BE PICKED UP FOR ONWARD ASSIGNMENT TO TPJMC TEAMS. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON A NEW SITE FOR THE PRG TPJMC DELEGATION IN SAIGON. THERE HAS BEEN NO RESOLUTION OF THE DEADLOCK OVER RESUMPTION OF THE RETURN OF CAPTURED PERSONNEL.

THE RESUMPTION OF THE WEEKLY SAIGON-HANOI-SAIGON USAF LIAISON FLIGHT WAS THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT THIS WEEK IN THE STALEMATED TALKS ON THE FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM/MISSING IN ACTION NEGOTIATIONS. DESPITE STRONG U.S. EFFORTS TO INDUCE THE COMMUNISTS TO DISCUSS A SCHEDULE OF CASUALTY RESOLUTION ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST, THE DRV AND PRG CONTINUE TO INSIST ON PRIOR AGREEMENT ON THOSE ISSUES WHICH HAVE BLOCKED PROGRESS SO FAR: PRG INSISTENCE ON LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE BUILDING OF MONUMENTS AND CEMETARIES, AND VISITS OF RELATIVES TO GRAVESITES, WHICH ARE NOT CONTEMPLATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THE GVN AND WE OPPOSE THIS AS A COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO GAIN POLITICAL ADVANTAGE IN AN AREA WHICH SHOULD BE KEPT FREE OF POLITICAL EXPLOITATION. PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE ARE DIM.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RVN/PRG BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AT LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD, NEAR PARIS, ARE COVERED IN PART II, PARA A BELOW.

B. THEIU GIVES UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH ON SELF-DEFENSE DAY
IN A TOUGH SPEECH AUGUST 5 ON THE OCCASION OF PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE DAY, PRESIDENT THIEU WARNED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO PEACE IS THROUGH STRENGTH AND VIGILANCE. HE CHARGED THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT
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SEEK PEACE AND ARE PREPARING "FOR ANOTHER INVASION IN THE DAYS AHEAD."

PRESIDENT THIEU CITED AS EVIDENCE OF THIS CONTINUING INFILTRATION OF ARMS AND WAR MATERIAL, PLUS COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO BUILD A "THIRD VIETNAM" IN THE ZONES THEY CONTROL. HE CALLED AGAIN FOR AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE OF THOSE ZONES, TERMING THE COMMUNIST TAX COLLECTORS "LEECHES" WHO SEEK TO LIVE OFF SVN PROSPERITY. THE ELIMINATION OF TAX COLLECTORS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST INFRASTRUCTURE IS A MOST IMPORTANT GOAL, PRESIDENT THIEU STATED. IF THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS WEAK, THE COMMUNISTS MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER THEIR PLANS FOR ANOTHER INVASION. THE PEOPLE'S SELF-DEFENSE FORCES PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THIS ATTACK ON THE COVERT COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION AND CANNOT BE DISBANDED, ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT THIEU.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO EXPOUNDED THE GVN POSITION REGARDING ELECTION AND DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. THE PARIS AGREEMENT CALLS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS TO EXPRESS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF SVN, THIEU POINTED OUT; DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD (NCNRC) "ARE DESIGNED FOR THE HOLDING OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND NOT TO ALLOW THE COMMUNISTS TO SABOTAGE THE SOUTH." "THEREFORE, WHILE SPEAKING OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND THE NCNRC, WE MUST SPEAK OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH JUSTIFY THE

IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES AND THE FORMATION OF THE NCNRC."

CALLING THE COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NCNRC AND THE PROCLAMATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES WITHOUT TALKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT AND SPECIFYING DEADLINES FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS

A "FARCE," PRESIDENT WARNED: "LET THEM NOT HOPE THE SOUTH WILL AGREE ON THE FORMATION OF A DISGUISED COALITION GOVERNMENT." PRESIDENT THIEU ALSO RENEWED HIS DEMAND FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF NVA TROOPS "SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF SVN MAY BE FREE TO CONDUCT GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHOUT NVN PRESSURE, WITHOUT THE PRESSURE OF COMMUNIST TANKS AND ARTILLERY FIRE."

C. THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER OFF-SHORE OPERATIONS

THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER OFF-SHORE OPERATION IN THE HUE-DANANG AREA IS HALFWAY THROUGH ITS SIX-WEEK TRIAL PERIOD. SO FAR, SOME TWENTY-EIGHT SQUARE MILES OF SEA HAVE BEEN SEARCHED, FIFTY-SIX DIVES HAVE BEEN MADE AND FIVE AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN FOUND. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE SPECIFIC AIRCRAFT BEING SOUGHT HAS YET
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BEEN LOCATED.

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BUDAPEST
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
LONDON
MANILA
MOSCOW

OTTAWA
PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SEOUL
TOKYO
USIA
UMJFS VIENTIANE
WARSAW
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BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
NHA TRANG
USDAO SAIGON
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